

REQUIREMENTS FOR
VISUALLY IMPAIRED SPECIAL EDUCATION, BIRTH-GRADE 12 CERTIFICATE
ARIZONA DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION – CERTIFICATION UNIT

➤ **PROVISIONAL VISUALLY IMPAIRED SPECIAL EDUCATION, BIRTH-GRADE 12 CERTIFICATE**

The Provisional certificate is valid for 3 years and is not renewable, but may be extended once for 3 years.

Requirements for the Provisional Visually Impaired Special Education certificate are:

1. Completed [Application for Certification](#)
2. Appropriate Fee (See *Application for Certification*)
3. A photocopy of your valid Arizona Department of Public Safety Identity Verified Prints (**IVP**) fingerprint card (plastic). For more information visit the [Arizona Department of Public Safety](#) website or call (602) 223-2279.
4. A Bachelor's or more advanced degree from an accredited institution. Official transcript(s) required.
5. Option A, B, or C:
 - A. Completion of a teacher preparation program in visual impairment from an accredited institution.
 - B. Forty-five semester hours of education courses from an accredited institution including 21 semester hours of special education courses for the visually impaired and 8 semester hours of practicum.
 - Special Education courses shall include: 1. Survey of exceptional students; 2. Teaching methodologies for students with visual impairment; 3. Foundations of instruction of students with visual impairment; 4. Diagnostic and assessment procedures for the visually impaired; and 5. Electives in visually impaired (if needed).
 - **Two years** of verified full-time teaching experience in the area of visually impaired in grades Prekindergarten-12 may be substituted for the 8 semester hours of practicum. Submit a [Verification of Teaching Experience](#) form signed and completed by the District Superintendent or Personnel/HR Director to verify teaching experience.
 - C. A valid Visually Impaired Special Education Certificate from another state.
6. Professional Knowledge Elementary Exam.

One of the following:

 - A. A passing score on the *NES Assessment of Professional Knowledge: Elementary* **OR** A passing score on the AEPA Professional Knowledge Elementary exam (replaced by the NES Assessment).
 - B. A valid comparable certificate from the National Board for Professional Teaching Standards. Submit a notarized copy of the certificate.
 - C. Three (3) years of full-time teaching visually impaired special education, birth – grade 12. Submit a [Verification of Teaching Experience](#) form signed and completed by the District Superintendent or Personnel/HR Director to verify teaching experience.
7. Subject Knowledge Visually Impaired Special Education Exam.

One of the following:

 - A. A passing score on the Subject Knowledge Visually Impaired Special Education portion of the Arizona Educator Exam ([NES or AEPA](#)).
 - B. A valid comparable certificate from the National Board for Professional Teaching Standards. Submit a notarized copy of the certificate.
 - C. Master's degree from an accredited institution in Visually Impaired Special Education.
8. Demonstration of competency in Braille through one of the following: 1. A passing score on the original version of the National Library of Congress certification exam. 2. A valid certificate for a literary Braille transcriber issued by the National Library of Congress. 3. A passing score on a Braille exam administered by another state. 4. A passing score on the Braille exam developed and administered by the University of Arizona. Individuals who take this test and are not students at the University of Arizona may be assessed a fee.
9. Structured English Immersion (SEI) Endorsement *

The SEI endorsement requires **ONE** of the following (option A, B, or C):

 - A. Official transcript documenting a three (3) semester hours State Board approved SEI course or comparable SEI training from another state.
 - OR-
 - B. Certificate of training documenting completion of forty-five (45) clock hours of State Board approved SEI training or comparable SEI training from another state.
 - OR-
 - C. Teachers and administrators who hold a **Full** English as a Second Language (ESL) or **Full** Bilingual Education

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endorsement are exempt from the SEI requirement. Note: The Provisional ESL and Provisional Bilingual endorsements will **NOT** meet the SEI endorsement requirement.

* **Note:** The requirements for a SEI endorsement may be waived for a period not to exceed one year for individuals who graduate from administrator or teacher preparation programs that are not approved by the Arizona State Board of Education and meet all other certification requirements.

10. Arizona Constitution (a college course or the appropriate examination).

11. U.S. Constitution (a college course or the appropriate examination).

***NOTE:** If you otherwise qualify for the certificate but are deficient in Arizona and/or U.S. Constitution you have 3 years under a valid teaching certificate to fulfill the requirement, except that if you are teaching an academic course on History, Government, Social Studies, Citizenship, Law, or Civics, you have 1 year to fulfill the requirement(s).*

➤ **STANDARD VISUALLY IMPAIRED SPECIAL EDUCATION, BIRTH-GRADE 12 CERTIFICATE**

The Standard certificate is valid for 6 years and may be renewed.

Requirements for the Standard Visually Impaired Special Education certificate are:

1. Qualify and hold the Provisional Visually Impaired Special Education Certificate for **2 years**.
2. **Two years** of verified full-time teaching experience during the valid period of the Provisional certificate may be used to convert the Provisional certificate to a Standard certificate. Submit a conversion form signed by the District Superintendent or Personnel Director verifying **2 years** of full-time teaching experience during the valid period of the Provisional certificate being converted.
3. Verification of 3 semester hours or 45 clock hours of state approved Structured English Immersion (SEI) training or comparable state approved SEI training from another state to qualify for the Full SEI endorsement.
***NOTE:** Individuals who hold a Full Bilingual or Full ESL endorsement are exempt from the SEI endorsement requirement.*
4. A photocopy of your valid Arizona Department of Public Safety Identity Verified Prints (**IVP**) fingerprint card (plastic). For more information visit the [Arizona Department of Public Safety](http://www.AZEd.GOV/EDUCATOR-CERTIFICATION/) website or call (602) 223-2279.